

REMARKS

This application is submitted as a US National Phase Application of PCT Application No PCT/IL2005/000141, filed on February 4, 2005.

The present amendments are based on the original claims submitted with the PCT application. The application contains 35 claims of which 2 claims are currently amended.

The Examiner who conducted the Search Report rejected claims 1-3 and 10-35 for lacking novelty and/or inventive step in view of US 5,244,441 to *Dempster, et al.* ("D1") and US 5,662,693 to *Johnson, et al.* ("D2"). Applicants respectfully disagree with this indication.

In the present application:

Claims 1 and 10 recite a method of exercise which provides an actuator "that includes a movement mechanism capable of applying a force that interacts with a motion of a patient's limb in a volume of at least 30 cm in diameter, in at least three degrees of freedom of motion of the actuator and capable of preventing substantial motion in any point in any direction in said volume";

Claim 11 has been amended to include a recitation that the actuator is "capable of preventing substantial motion in any point in any direction...";

Claim 20 describes "a memory storing therein a correspondence between exercises and payment codes";

Claim 21 describes "a controller which analyses said measured motion and generates a measure of quality of motion and which modifies a rehabilitation plan responsive to said quality of motion measure";

Claim 25 describes a method of rehabilitation which includes "estimating a mental state of said person from a result of said at least one exercise";

Claim 29 includes determining a patient's ability to perform "motor" and "non-motor tasks"; and,

Claim 34 has been amended to include a recitation that the actuator is "capable of preventing substantial motion in any point in any direction ...".

It should be noted that the above listed limitations are quoted from the claims, are by way of example only, and merely represent a partial list of features which the Applicants regard as novel and inventive in view of the cited references.

D1 does not describe or suggest providing an actuator that interacts with a patient's limb in any more than two degrees of freedom during exercise. While D1 does describe various means (jack handle 26, bearing slide arrangement 28, and track arrangement 30) for

description of how D1 works, that these means are not used during actual exercise. In fact, a stabilizing arrangement 31 is used to prevent motion using these means. Furthermore, even if these means were used during exercise, an actuator is not provided by D1 that is capable of preventing substantial motion in all the directions enabled by these means, as recited in claims 1, 4, 10-11 and 34. Regarding claims 20-21, 25, and 29 none of the features listed above are described or suggested in D1.

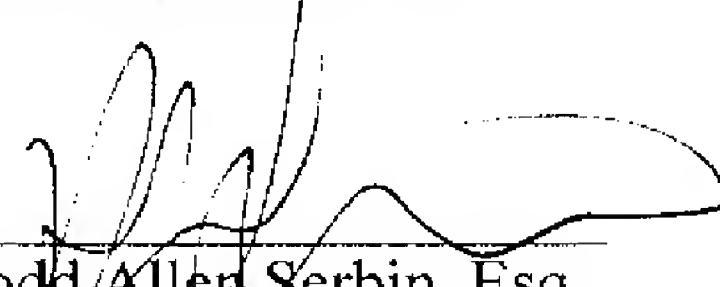
D2 also does not describe or suggest a method of rehabilitation which provides an actuator capable of preventing substantial motion in any direction, as recited in claims 1, 4, 10-11 and 34, since D2 needs a locking mechanism to substantially prevent movement, for example when the patient is standing still. Col. 4, lines 12-17. None of the exemplary features of independent claims 20-21, 25 and 29, as mentioned above, are described or are suggested by D2.

For the reasons above, D1 and D2 do not anticipate nor render obvious the claims of the present invention. The dependent claims are patentable at the very least because they depend from patentable independent claims 1, 4, 10-11, 20-21, 25, 29, and 34.

An allowance of the claims is respectfully awaited. In the event that the Examiner believes that there are problems which would make it impossible to issue an allowance for all the claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468, which is a US toll free number connected directly to our office in Israel (please note the 7 hour time difference and the official work week is from Sunday to Thursday).

Respectfully submitted,

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